(a) whether it is a fact that a large section of people will be deprived of the education due to the increase of fee in Open Universities;

(b) if so, whether any justified step would be taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) According to the information furnished by Indira Gandhi National Open University, the increase in fee is nominal. The University has stated that there has been increase in students enrolment in the University in January, 2003 session, over the last corresponding session.

(b) and (c) The question does not arise.

Errors in the text books of VI and IX classes

643. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that anomalies, objections and factual errors were pointed out by a section of academicians and intellectuals in the text books meant for class VI and IX brought out by NCERT; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) Certain articles, editorials and reports pertaining to the history component of the social science textbooks for classes VI and IX were brought out by SAHMAT in the form of a booklet under the title "Saffronished substandard; a critique of the new NCERT textbooks" in December, 2002. A point -by-point comprehenisve response to the objections raised in the various articles of the booklet to certain statement made in the class VI book was soon afterwards provided by its author, Prof. Makkhan Lal in a published booklet. The NCERT took into consideration both SAHMAT's "Critique of the new NCERT textbooks" and, Prof. Makkhan Lal's responses thereto and on verification of facts from various authentic sources found that most of the objections raised

in the SAHMAT's booklet were tendentious and based on a particular ideological view point not supported by the findings of latest historical researches. As regards factual errors, which were primarily of editorial nature, necessary corrections have been made in the revised editions of the concerned books.

B.Ed. colleges in Andhra Pradesh

644. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has sent a proposal to the National Council for Technical Education for starting four new B.Ed. colleges in the State;

(b) if so, when the details thereof; and

(c) whether the approval to the proposal has since been given and if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) to (c) There is no Council by the name of 'National Council for Technical Education'. However, there is a National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) which deals with issues relating to various Teacher Education Courses. Out of the 207 applications received by the National Council for Teacher Education, 161 institutions have been granted recognition by the Southern Regional Committee (SRC) of NCTE. Applications in respect of the remaining institutions have been rejected by the SRC as they were not found to have compiled with NCTE norms. However, on consideration of appeals filed under Section 18 of the NCTE Act, the Council has accepted/ remanded back the appeal of 7 such institutions for grant of recognition from 2002-2003 or 2003-04 depending on the admission schedule of the affiliating university, and subject to verification by the university authorities of the claims of the Institution regarding list of teachers and Principal.

Removal of Premchand's novel from class XII syllabus

645. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: